

Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 1:00pm

Flathead County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), 625 Timberwolf Parkway

**Members Present:** Dr. Miller, Amy Vanterpool, Jordan Owen, Mary Granger, Dr. Briles, Ryan Pitts and Jacob Pitcher on Goto Meetings

**Others Present:** Jennifer Rau, Juanita Nelson, Amy Beick, James Brower, Warren Davis, Jackie Smith, Under Sheriff Wayne DuBois

1. **1:01:12 Call to Order** Meeting was called to order by Dr. Miller at 1:01:12 pm without Ryan Pitts
2. **Roll Call** missing Ryan Pitts
3. **1:01:47 Approval of Agenda** Approved as amended and received
4. **1:02:22 Approval of Previous Minutes:** December 8, & December 22, 2020 (special meeting) minutes -Approved
5. **1:02:46 Public Comment for Items Not Listed on Agenda** none
6. **1:02:56 Financial Report**
  - Juanita Nelson presented the financial report for the period 12/02/2020- 12/31/2020. Cash balances for the funds haven't changed from last month's report. Insurance is higher due to a new vehicle being added to the policy. Operating statement 2272 non-employee training/registration line item was highlighted, \$400.00 has been spent YTD.
7. **1:04:33 EMS Advisory Committee Report**– Amy Beick shared that the Advisory Committee has not met since the last Administrative Board Meeting so there was nothing to report.
8. **1:04:50 EMS Program Manager Report**– Jordan Owen presented the report  
Covid-19 Vaccine
  - Covid-19 vaccine roll out for EMS personnel has been ensuing. EMS were at the top of the list. A survey was sent out for EMS, fire, and sheriff personnel for vaccine participation. People are getting second shots now.MDT project
  - Contract was not signed in time for the 20% discount. The vendor says if it is signed quickly they will honor the 20% discount. It was approved and signed by commissioners today. Jordan Owen will send it off. There is no need for a budget amendment. If the 20% discount is lost then the board would need to change the approval number.Credentialing
  - NinthBrain system has 372 participants. Still working on completing folks at Blacktail, and Sheriff Deputies. People have been compliant and proactive.Flathead County EMS Program Manual APP
  - Renewal is due. Jordan Owen will renew it. He requested an annual report from the developers to see metrics regarding how is it being used by providers. Jordan Owen wants to give it another year, he feels like people are using it.State EMS
  - Jordan Owen has been participating at a high level with the State of Montana EMS. There is a movement to get the EMS Association reinvigorated with MEMSA. There are 2 potential legislative bills. One is an assessment bill. There hasn't been any legislative representation in a while for EMS.
9. **1:11:30 EMS Medical Director Report**– Dr. Briles presented the report.
  - Dr. Briles is pleased with how the hospital helped with EMS vaccine distribution. Less than 50% of people got the vaccine.

- Dr. Briles is doing ongoing QA with individual incidents about bypass.

Covid-19:

- A First vaccine clinic is tomorrow at POB 11:30-1:30 and 4-7. Jenny needs to send an email.
- County Health is doing the planning for the vaccine rollout KRMCC is supporting them.
- Discussion regarding Covid-19 Vaccine availability and the new variant strain ensued.

**10. 1:36:45 Approval of FCEMS to fund a second Critical Care Basics class in Flathead County**

- Jackie Smith presented this proposal. She is working with Jordan Owen and Dr. Briles to get paramedics up to transport level. Interfacility transport protocols have been changed. Proposal is for a second class to get the rest of the paramedics up to critical care in Evergreen and draw more attendance from the county. Focus is on interfacility transports. The goal is to provide continuity for the community. A nurse would not have to be sent with the ambulance if there are trained EMS.
- Best Practice taught the first class with 8 students in December 2020. Jordan Owen brought it to the board after Evergreen Fire had set it up. This class will be organized with Jordan Owen and County parameters for sponsoring a class. This includes: fewer students and less cost, minimum number of participation clause, no show clause. There was some confusion with the first class, regarding if it was critical care certification not a transport class. The County can send out a survey for a date range. Jordan Owen won't buy a class if it doesn't meet the minimum number of students.
- Evergreen Fire is making this a mandatory class for their remaining paramedics who did not take the first class, about 8-9 people. Discussion was had regarding class size.
- Mary Granger made a motion to approve. Amy Vanterpool seconded. Discussion. Motion carried.

**11. Approval of FCEMS to fund a PHTLS class in Flathead County**

- Jordan Owen presented this request. A county survey shows about 76 people are interested in PHTLS from the EMT level up. This is a national standard for paramedics. Shari Graham at the state will put on 2 classes for the county in March and October of 2021. State classes are of no cost to the County, class size is 20 people.
- Best Practice Medicine has given a quote for a PHTLS class with a class size of 12, a hybrid model, in late spring early summer. The County can do a survey for interest, if get the minimum number, then will go with the class.
- Jordan Owen is asking for approval to start this process. He wants to keep interest and participation up with EMS by offering the class soon. The goal is to set up a standard class offering that could be set for each year as a package.
- Amy Vanterpool made a motion to approve. Jacob Pitcher second. Discussion. Discussion included whether career agencies were doing this in house. Concern was raised regarding the cost of the class. FVCC was suggested as an alternative option to get a better price. Jordan Owen can investigate the college and its options. Ryan Pitts made a motion to table the decision due to price. Mary Granger seconded. Motion tabled.

**12. Approval of FCEMS to fund ACLS/PALS Skills verification classes as needed**

- Jordan Owen presented this request.
- Discussion ensued. Concern was raised about sponsoring classes for volunteer and paid personnel. Mill levy authorization doesn't differentiate between employed or volunteer agency. Concern was raised about setting a precedent for the County to pay for all certification. The mill was cut this year because the Board did not spend enough. Discussion

continued regarding what kind of management oversight the board wants in the spending of education dollars.

- Mary Granger made a motion to approve. Jacob Pitcher second. Discussion ensued regarding the EMS Manager's ability to spend education dollars. Motion carried. Dr. Miller declared henceforth if a line item has been approved in the budget then the EMS Program Manager has the permission to spend it.

**13. 1:17:47 Approval of FCEMS to fund Combat First Aid for FC EMS/SO Deputies**

- Under Sheriff Wayne Dubois presented this request. This is a two day class and could add a third day to involve EMS on that day. The class has a critical care focus, covering what to do in the field so someone doesn't die.
- Amy Vanterpool made a motion to approve. Ryan Pitts seconded. Discussion. Discussion included reviewing the cost of a two or three day class. An interest survey by the County was suggested. Involvement of EMS in all three days intermixed with deputies was supported rather than only EMS on a third day. Ryan Pitts suggested if they did mix all three days, the motion could allow ems to intermix all three days with 60 deputies. The class would be scheduled in late July or August. Under Sheriff Wayne Dubois sees this as an extension of EMS services in the county. Motion approved.

**14. 2:23:32 Discussion of minimum certification standards for Paramedic licensure –tabled until next meeting**

- Jordan Owen presented an overview of the topic of establishing minimum standards for paramedics. Discussion ensued regarding this being accomplished through the board or medical direction. This would need to be done gradually and could be made a requirement of funding in MOUs.

**15. Elect New Board officers**

- Board Bylaws require election of Chair and Vice Chair in January.
- Dr. Miller asked for motions for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. Hearing no motions, Dr. Miller asked for nominations for board chair. Dr. Miller nominated Mary Granger. A second is not required for nominations. Nominations closed. Mary Granger Chair by acclamation.
- Dr. Miller asked for a volunteer for vice chair. Ryan Pitts volunteered. Mary Granger nominated Ryan Pitts. No other nominations. Ryan Pitts Vice Chair by acclamation.

**16. Review Draft MCI policy -tabled until next meeting**

**17. Future Agenda Items**

**18. Board Member Comments**

- Mary Granger asked if she would have a resignation from Dr. Miller effective at the end of this meeting. Dr. Miller replied yes. Ryan Pitts stated he was very glad to have been able to work with Dr. Miller. "We would not be here without Wayne." Mary Granger agreed. Jacob Pitcher stated it was good to serve with Dr. Miller.

**19. Future Meeting Date: February 9, 2021.**

- The board may go to a monthly meeting if there is a need. Dr. Miller has notified commissioners they will be in charge of his replacement. The position should be filled by a private citizen from the community.

**20. 2:41:54 Adjournment**